



Labor News Bits

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News & Information

Labor and Workforce Development partners with CVS

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has awarded a new \$447,800 grant to CVS Pharmacy Distribution Center to help its workers compete in the new economy, Commissioner Kevin P. McCabe announced on July 8, 2004.

CVS Pharmacy Distribution Center, located in Lumberton, New Jersey, is making a \$350,510 matching contribution to train 996 employees. New Jersey Institute of Technology will provide classroom training courses in business communications, supervisory training, Microsoft Office, English as a Second Language, problem solving, and teambuilding.

McCabe said the department is working with higher education institutions, business, labor, and local community organizations to make good investments in businesses and workers.

"The McGreevey administration is focusing on training today's workers by providing the skills that will be in demand tomorrow, so that our state is poised to be a leader in providing a highly skilled and highly trained workforce to the business community," McCabe said.

Since taking office, the McGreevey administration has provided more than \$48 million to train nearly 90,000 workers through training grant programs.

Customized training grants are matching grants awarded to New

Jersey businesses to provide training to the company's workforce in skills specifically needed to increase productivity and marketability. The grants, awarded through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, are funded through the Workforce Development Partnership Program.

Information about customized training and literacy grants is available by calling 609-292-2239 or on the Internet on the Department of Labor and Workforce Development Web site, www.nj.gov/labor.

New Jersey reaches all-time employment peak

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development reported that jobs rose by 9,500 in May, reaching an all-time record of 4,035,300, and all jobs lost during the recession were recovered as of April.

New Jersey's unemployment rate dropped from 5.3 percent in April to 4.9 percent in May. The rate was the lowest since October 2001 when it was 4.8 percent. For the thirteenth consecutive month, the state's jobless rate was below the U.S. rate, which was 5.6 percent in May. The New Jersey rate is a full percentage point below a year ago.

One of the top priorities of the McGreevey administration has been developing the skills of our state's workforce and creating good jobs for those workers to fill. More jobs are coming to New Jersey, and analysts are noting that New Jersey has been the economic

engine for the entire region. This administration's record of transforming the state's workforce development system, training workers, working in partnership with the business community, and protecting the rights of workers has made New Jersey a place where employers want to do business and workers want to earn a living.

The largest private supersector increase was in trade/transportation/utilities which advanced by 3,600 to 882,900. Job strength in the retail trade sector spurred the improvement with food/beverage stores and sporting goods/hobby/book/music stores leading the way. The transportation/warehousing and utilities sector also contributed to the advance as job levels in transit/ground passenger transportation, air and truck transportation industries posted increases over the month. The education/health services and the leisure/hospitality supersectors followed, each with a gain of 1,500 over the month. The education and health services supersector rose to 550,100 as educational services and health care/social assistance employers bolstered employment.

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Kevin P. McCabe
Commissioner

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